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Paper No. 15

**PATENT AGENTS**  
JECK FLECK HERRMANN  
POSTFACH 1165  
SCHWIEBERDINGEN D7169-7  
GERMANY

In re Application of  
Muller, Norbert  
Application No. 09/101,498  
Filed: July 9, 1998  
Attorney Docket No. VO-391

**COPY MAILED**

FEB 25 2004

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed February 18, 2004, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No further petition fee is required for the request. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

This application became abandoned for failure to timely reply to the non-final Office action mailed October 10, 2000. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, this application became abandoned on January 11, 2001. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed May 22, 2001.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the required reply,<sup>1</sup>
- (2) the petition fee,
- (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, and
- (4) a terminal disclaimer and fee if the application was filed on or before June 8, 1995 or if the application is a design application.

Where there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 was unintentional, the Commissioner may require additional information.<sup>2</sup>

The instant petition lacks item (1). A response to the non-final Office action is required to revive the above-identified application under 37 CFR 1.137(b). A copy of the Office action is enclosed for petitioner's convenience.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition

<sup>1</sup> In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof.

<sup>2</sup> See MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(C) and (D).

desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed solely to the address currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

It is not apparent whether the statement of unintentional delay was signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay was unintentional, petitioner must make such an inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

The above-identified application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional.<sup>3</sup>

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITION  
Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Effective December 1, 2003, the Office of Petitions can no longer receive hand-carried correspondence, or facsimile transmissions of correspondence. The centralized location for hand-carried correspondence is the existing Customer Window located at:

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The centralized facsimile number is (703) 872-9306.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 306-0482.



Liana Chase  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy

Enclosure: Non-final Office action (previously mailed on October 10, 2000)

cc: Kevin D. Erickson  
Pauley Petersen & Erickson  
2800 W. Higgins Road  
Suite 365  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

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<sup>3</sup> See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office).